

### In the Specification

*In Column 6, please replace the third paragraph, as amended by Certificate of Correction, with the following:*

In the fourth invention, by adding one or two of Nb and B to satisfy the relation,  $0.0030 \leq (\text{Nb}+10\text{B})$ , the anti-sensitization property can be improved. In an actual operation, the finish annealing temperature is not necessarily constant, and changes in the heating time and ultimate temperature cannot be avoided. In a ferritic stainless steel sheet, high-temperature annealing causes sensitization in the course of cooling, and grain boundaries are corroded in subsequent pickling to deteriorate the surface quality in some cases. Therefore, in order to obtain stable quality in an actual operation, it is important to prevent the occurrence of sensitization over a wide temperature range. FIG. 5 shows the results of examination of the influences of Nb and B on the sensitization property by using steel comprising (0.031~0.045)% C-(0.22~0.40)% Si-(0.27~0.73)% Mn-(0.024~0.045)% P-(0.005~0.007)% S-(0.001~0.003)% Al-(0.001~0.002)% Ti-(16.0~17.5)% Cr-(0.15~0.44)% Ni-(0.040~0.062)% N-(0.035~0.120)% V. A slab having the above composition was heated to 1170° C., and then hot-rolled at a finish delivery temperature of 830° C. to form a hot-rolled sheet. The thus-formed hot-rolled sheet was subjected to hot-rolled sheet annealing at 860° C. for 8 hours, pickled, and then cold-rolled with a total rolling reduction of 85% to form a cold-rolled sheet. The thus-formed cold-rolled sheet was finish-annealed at 900° C. for 30 seconds, and pickled to form a cold-rolled annealed sheet having a thickness of 0.8 mm. The surface of the thus-obtained cold-rolled annealed sheet was observed with a scanning electron microscope to examine the presence of grain boundary corrosion, to evaluate the surface quality. In evaluation, mark O represents no occurrence of corrosion, and mark x represents the occurrence of corrosion. FIG. 5 indicates that by adding Nb and B so that the adding amounts satisfy  $(\text{Nb}+10\text{B}) \geq 0.0030$ , annealing at 900° C. can

prevent grain boundary sensitization. This is possibly due to the fact that C and N present in steel are fixed by Nb and B to inhibit the precipitation of Cr carbonitride in the grain boundaries in cooling after annealing. However, an excessive addition of Nb and B deteriorates the surface quality, and thus the upper limits of the amounts of Nb and B added must be 0.030% and 0.0030%, respectively.